

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 48

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Cynthia Nava

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE DYSLEXIA
12 IN THE STATE DEFINITION OF DISABILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF
13 INTERPRETING THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
14 EDUCATION ACT, TO IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS
15 WITH DYSLEXIA AND TO ESTABLISH CERTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR
16 SPECIALISTS WHO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.

17
18 WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities
19 Education Act recognizes that persons with dyslexia shall be
20 provided with educational services to address their disability;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the Public School Code has not defined dyslexia
23 or instituted educational diagnostic evaluations and has not
24 recommended educational services to address dyslexia; and

25 WHEREAS, scientists and leaders from the national

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1 institute of child health and human development, the education
2 council, the academic language therapy association and the
3 international dyslexia association have identified the skills
4 needed by teachers and therapists, have developed certification
5 requirements for specialists in the field and have accredited
6 professional training programs that prepare persons with
7 dyslexia;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of public education be
10 requested to adopt a specific definition of dyslexia, to
11 identify dyslexia as a specific disability for purposes of New
12 Mexico's interpretation of the federal Individuals with
13 Disabilities Education Act and to establish effective
14 interventions and specialized public school education programs
15 for students that address this specific language disability;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
18 education begin to establish certification criteria for
19 specialists to carry out public school education programs to
20 assist students with dyslexia; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
22 education report findings and make recommendations to the
23 legislative education study committee by August 2009; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study

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1 committee, the secretary of public education and
2 the superintendents of all public school districts.

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